

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION
State Historic Preservation Office – Liaison
Historian



2023 Year-End Report

CURRENT OFFICER:

Kyle Stetler

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. **National Historic Lookout Register and Former Fire Lookout Sites**

Approximately 170 new lookouts were registered in the NHLR. Many of the new additions were in Washington, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Mississippi, Arkansas, Arizona, New York, and West Virginia. The FFLSR had 20 new additions, several of those unfortunately including lookouts that had been destroyed by fires in the recent past.

2. **Leviathan Peak LO (Humboldt-Toiyabe NF) #282** – Coordination had been ongoing with the H-T NF staff over what to do Leviathan Peak. As of mid-2023, some local FFLA/Buck Rock Foundation (BRF) members are attempting to stave off demolition by coordinating with local fire management personnel. The state of California plans to proceed with demolition work in spring 2024 if no alternative plans are developed. The hope is that some skilled deconstruction and salvage could still occur. Unfortunately, recent attempts to reach out to the Forest staff have been unsuccessful.

https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/86485_FSPLT2_128805.pdf

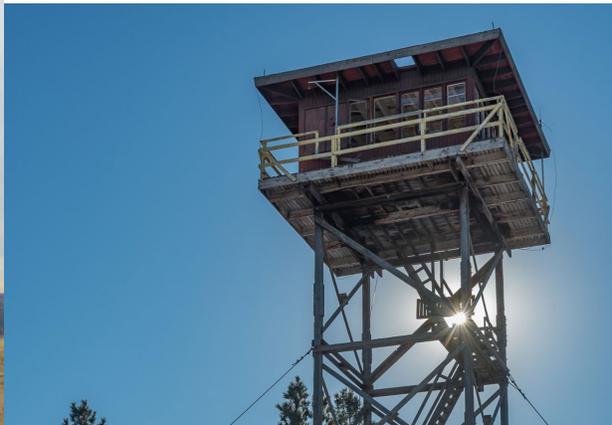
Project Status: ONGOING



3. **Coordination** – During SHPO coordination emails any information on projects I receive, is forwarded onto the appropriate chapter director so that they are aware of the project and everyone is informed. Annual SHPO coordination emails are embedded below.
Project Status: ONGOING

4. **Oregon** – The Deschutes and Umpqua National Forests have proposed removing a combined 7 lookouts. This is in addition to the 5 lookouts that the Malheur NF has had slated for removal for the past couple of years. Oregon SHPO is aware of the situation and coordination is ongoing. I have also been coordinating with other local lookout groups (Sand Mountain Society) about the possible salvage of some materials from the Deschutes lookouts while I established contacts with the Umpqua NF Heritage Program Lead about potential future plans/options and had a productive conversation. There was also coordination with staff on the Rogue-River Siskiyou NF pertaining to both east side lookouts generally and on the west side Bolan Mountain specifically. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59894>
Project Status: ONGOING

5. **Montana** – Coordination with the Montana SHPO on the fate of Hogback lookout on the Helena-Lewis and Clark is ongoing while mitigation measures are being developed for the removal of Yager Butte lookout on the Custer-Gallatin NF.
Project Status: ONGOING



OBJECTIVES FOR 2024:

- Continue annual coordination with SHPO staff at the top 30 offices.
- Send out status update email to 40 SHPOs.
- Wrap up Leviathan Peak coordination as well as Hogback and Yager Butte coordination.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Stetler

SHPO Liaison and Historian

2023 SHPO Status Update	Contact(s)	STATUS
Arkansas	section106@arkansas.gov and Scott Kaufman, JESSICA H. COGBURN	I have searched our database and we had no fire lookout submissions/consultations in 2022.
Alabama	Amanda McBride	I have run a query in the database and can find no Section 106 projects for fire towers. I'm sure you know there has been an ongoing effort at Flagg Mountain to rehabilitate the tower and at least one of the cabins, I believe? I think I remember the tower coming through our office under a different program.
Arizona	Mary-Ellen Walsh	Grandview in the Tusayan Ranger District. They're rehabbing it for use with the Room with a View program.
California	Susan Negrete, Brandon Greenway, Jeffrey Delsescaux	I don't believe we received any consultations.
Colorado	Mark Tobias, Matt Marques	We haven't reviewed any new projects this year.
Florida	Joe Bomberger and Mike Dubose	I am the one who took Joe's position, so you came to the right place. I apologize for taking so long to respond. Looking through our projects, I did not see any that were specifically about fire towers, but there were a number of projects involving fire station and firebreaks and lines.
Georgia	Jennifer Dixon	I've checked our tracking system and I am unable to locate any projects submitted to HPD for review by either a federal or state agency in any area of the state associated with fire towers or fire lookouts.
Idaho	Lindsay Johansson	Reminder sent January 20th, 2023

Kentucky	Nicole Koncol	I don't recall anything coming in from a local or state applicant for this type of property. We have a programmatic agreement with DBNF for their property.
Louisiana	Jennie Garcia	I checked with my colleagues here and we are not aware of any Section 106 consultations for fire lookouts.
Maine	Kirk Mohney	A search of our project review database did not yield any consultations in 2022 that involved forest fire lookouts in Maine. I am also not aware of any activities involving these structures that took place outside of the project review process.
Massachusetts	Ed Bell	No reviews were conducted this past year by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for fire lookout towers. I will continue to annually remind the Massachusetts Historical Commission's project reviewers to alert you of any.
Michigan	Martha MacFarlane-Faes	I just check into this and there is not additional info for 2022.
Minnesota	Sarah Biemers	I took a quick look at our database and do not see any historic fire tower reviews this past year.
Mississippi	Hal Bell	On May 17, 2022, we received a submission from the USFS for repairs of the Moore Lookout Tower (123-FOR-3001-NR) and removal of the Clear Springs Lookout Tower (129-RAL-5016) in the Bienville National Forest. We responded with a letter, dated June 15, 2022, notifying them that both towers are eligible for listing in the NRHP and that demolition

		of the Clear Springs tower would constitute an adverse effect and that we would need to review any plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of the Moore tower. We have received no further communication regarding these structures.
Missouri	Amanda Burke -Kevin McHugh	In looking through our database the only thing I find that our office has reviewed over the past three years is just an amendment to the MOA related to the Forest Service's decommissioning of the Towerman's dwelling and garage at the Roby Fire Tower Complex on the Mark Twain National Forest.
Montana	Laura Evilsizer and Erie Newcombe	Poker Jim listed, Patrol and Prairie Reef eligible, no updated on Hogback. Lots of maintenance work on Bitterroot lookouts.
Nevada	Ashley Wiley	Thank you for reaching out. No fire lookout submissions have been sent in FY2022.
New Hampshire	Nadine Miller	We have been working with Forest and Lands to evaluate all of the fire Towers in the state and to develop a best practices management plan in anticipation of rehabilitation work at some of the sites, Contact Patrick.D.Hackley@dncr.nh.gov
New Jersey	Lindsay Thivierge	I forwarded your message to staff and then never got back to you. We did not have any reviews for fire lookouts in 2022.
New Mexico	Michelle Ensey	We had one inquiry regarding a roof that came off the lookout tower in Ruidoso. Attached is the correspondence we

		received. I'm not aware of anything else.
New York	Kathy Howe	Happy New Year to you! I have checked our database and did not see any Section 106 or equivalent state level 14.09 reviews for any fire lookout towers.
North Carolina	Renee Gledhill-earley	Glad to report that we have not seen any fire lookout towers for demo. But, NC FS/NCWRC doesn't always report them
Oregon	Jessica Gabriel	I don't have anything to report other than our coordination with the Deschutes and Umpqua USFS, at least for now. Overall, we are suggesting to our partners that they reach out and cast a wider net with their Section 106 consultation and your organization is on our short list by resource type.
Pennsylvania	Emma Diehl, Cheryl Nagle, Barbara Fredrick	According to our records, we did not have any consultations in 2022 regarding fire towers under either Section 106 or the State History Code.
South Carolina	Elizabeth Johnson	We actually had one final report that came in under a state Site Certification program for the Winding Woods St. George Lookout Tower in Dorchester County (attached). It was assigned archaeological site number 38DR371 and an above ground number 440-0062. The site had been revisited and 18 systematic shovel tests were excavated, none contained artifacts only the remains of the tower, five cement blocks and three wood pilings. We concurred with the recommendation in the report that 38DR371 is ineligible for the National Register of

		Historic Places as it contains no archaeological integrity and little research potential.
South Dakota	Jenna Dietmeier	South Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer received one request for Section 106 consultation pertaining to a fire lookout in Lawrence County. The Black Hills National Forest proposed to do some repairs to the Custer Peak Lookout
Tennessee	Rebecca Scmitt, Peggy Nickell, Casey Lee and Kelley Reid	We have no new National Register listings for fire towers. The only updates we have on the review side is we have begun receiving mitigation (documentation of the complexes) for the 11 fire tower complexes where the state was demolishing office and/or shed buildings. However, none of those projects had any work planned for the fire towers themselves.
Texas	Justin Kockritz	I had a chance to check in with some of our review staff who would see any projects like this and they reported that there were not any fire towers affected by projects we reviewed in 2022. In November, several of our staff attended an annual meeting with U.S. Forest Service staff in Lufkin and there were not any fire tower projects that USFS mentioned as coming up.
Vermont	Yvonne Basque and James Duggan	There are currently no active 106 consultations in progress for fire towers/lookouts in Vermont. State of Vermont is starting some safety improvements in state owned towers soon as well.

Virginia	Roger Kirchen	Thanks for checking in. According to our records, we've had no review requests for fire lookouts.
Washington	Holly Borth , Nick Vann (Deputy)	We will look to see if we have any recent communications regarding fire lookouts in the past year. Off the top of my head, I know we had consulted with the Gifford-Pinchot National Forest on the Suntop Lookout, which due to its easy access by vehicle was actually a good candidate for some accessibility improvements
West Virginia	Lora Lamarre, Benjamin Riggle and Steve Gifford	We have not reviewed any projects involving fire lookouts this past year, nor are we aware of any state level projects involving fire lookouts. Please be aware that Patricia Hutchins no longer works in my office. Benjamin Riggle and Steve Gifford (copied) are the structural historians who handle Section 106 reviews
Wisconsin	Daina Penkiunas	I did a rough search of our projects from last year and didn't see anything that jumped out from the project titles
Wyoming	Brian Beadles	According to our database, the only documentation we received on a fire lookout was for the Monument Ridge Fire Lookout in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. We received an evaluation report that was written in 2018 and some additional documentation. I'm not sure if the forest has begun any of the recommended work on the lookout.